Forging of Indian Passport

1795. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forging of the Indian Passports, mainly substituting digitally embossed photographs, is becoming rampant in the Gulf;

(b) whether it is also a fact that just within six months the emigration authorities at Thiruvananthapuram alone detained 77 persons on the charges of using fake passports; and

(c) what measures Government are taking to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No cases of forging of Indian passports, mainly substituting digitally embossed photographs have been reported by our Missions in Gulf.

(b) and (c) During year 2005, Emigration Authorities at Thiruvananthapuram detained 134 persons on charges of using fake passports and now the Government have taken steps to ensure that there are enough Security features in Indian passports making it very difficult, if not impossible, to forge it.

SAARC Summit in Dhaka

1796. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese proposal to join the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation came up for consideration at the recent SAARC Summit in Dhaka;

(b) if so, whether India supported the move, if so, on what items; and

(c) what was the consensus that reached on the issue in the SAARC Summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) The 13th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka on November 12-13, 2005 agreed, in principle, that the